



# STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Tim Walz  
Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan

130 State Capitol ♦ 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155-1611

April 22, 2021

Minnesota Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training  
c/o Erik Misselt, Executive Director  
1600 University Ave. Suite 200  
St. Paul, MN 55104

Members of the Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Board:

The verdict announced this week is an important step forward for justice in Minnesota. The trial is over, but there remains an urgent need to increase trust and transparency in policing. Seeing accountability in the courtroom for George Floyd, his family, and the community in Minnesota was an important step, but we must aspire to do much more. Your work as members of the POST Board, a duly authorized and empowered professional licensing body, is critical to ensuring the law enforcement profession's legitimacy and Minnesotans' trust in their government. Creating meaningful and transformational change that builds trust will serve the people of Minnesota in communities large and small, as well as Minnesota's more than 10,000 licensed peace officers. The task before you is not easy, and I thank you for your service and leadership.

I request your thoughtful yet expedient consideration and action on the proposals before you. Your action will begin progress toward greater trust and transparency in the profession. I ask you to rise to the moment by implementing bold and responsible proposals to heal divides in Minnesota. One such proposal is the First Amendment standard for public assembly response. As the Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage outlined in its letter, law enforcement has the dual responsibility to preserve public safety and protect the constitutional right to demonstrate. I urge you to reflect the public's calls for a more uniform system that establishes sound practices and accountability for law enforcement response to demonstrations.

Extremist ideology is at odds with law enforcement professionals' basic responsibility to protect and serve everyone. To further build trust, and in light of the January 6, 2021 insurgency at our nation's capital, I request that you support the proposal requiring a policy to ban peace officer involvement in extremist organizations.

Finally, to allow the POST Board to adequately perform its work, I strongly encourage you to adopt requirements for more comprehensive complaint and discipline data collection and reporting. This information will help the POST Board identify training needs and develop new professional standards that reflect best practices.

Minnesota faces a moment of reckoning, where the interests and needs of many converge. The watershed events of the last year make it clear that communities of color cannot go on like this. Police

officers also cannot go on like this. While we all hope for change, history tells us that hope is not a strategy. The urgency and need for systemic reforms have never been greater. As members of the POST Board, you are uniquely positioned and empowered with regulatory and rule-making authority to lead on the urgent issues facing the law enforcement profession. You represent a balance of law enforcement leaders committed to serving our communities with integrity and respect, educational institutions preparing the current and next generations of peace officers, and community leaders from all walks of life and all corners of Minnesota.

The POST Board has a monumental task ahead of it, but it also has an opportunity to transform policing in Minnesota. I ask you to continue the work of rebuilding, restoring, and reimagining the relationship between law enforcement professionals and the communities that they serve. Thank you, again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Walz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and a stylized "W".

Tim Walz  
Governor